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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme

Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 2012 annual session (5-8 June 2012)

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2012

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2012/7. Annual report of the Executive Director of UNICEF: progress and achievements against the medium-term strategic plan

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Executive Director of UNICEF: progress and achievements against the medium-term strategic plan, 2006-2013 (E/ICEF/2012/10);

2. *Recalls* its decision 2011/12, reiterates its requests to UNICEF to introduce lessons learned and recommendations for future strategies of the organization and to include challenges and concrete steps to address these in future annual reports, and urges UNICEF to continue efforts to improve results reporting within the present MTSP period by describing progress compared to plans, including more systematic references to risk assessment and mitigation as well as achievements from UNICEF efforts to enhance children's rights and gender equality within its programmes;

3. *Recalls* its decision 2011/10 inviting the Executive Director to integrate, in close collaboration with the chair of the United Nations Development Group, the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the programme of UNICEF, and to report on its implementation as part of the next annual report;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to enhance results-based management, and in this regard requests UNICEF to continue to consult with members of the Executive Board and to work closely with other United Nations entities, in order to develop a robust and harmonized results framework for the next strategic plan 2014-17, that is clear, simple, and demonstrate a complete result chain with expected results at each level;

5. *Recalls* its decision 2012/2, and requests that UNICEF update the timetable set out in its road map towards the UNICEF Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2014-17 by including more details of the key actions and consultations to be undertaken;

6. *Acknowledges* the importance of reporting on gender equality results in all focus areas, as well as with reference to Executive Board decision 2010/21 on human resources management, including recruitment that takes into consideration the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and reiterates the request to comprehensively integrate the results in these issues in the annual report of the Executive Director.

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2012/8. Report on progress of gender equality work in UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Reaffirms* gender equality as one of the key cross-cutting strategies of the medium-term strategic plan of UNICEF;

2. *Welcomes* the report on the progress of gender equality work in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2012/11) and the steps taken to improve work on gender equality within UNICEF, including structural improvements, and through increased collaboration

with other United Nations partners, in particular UN-Women, including through piloting the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for implementation of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, led by UN-Women;

3. *Urges* UNICEF to continue to make improvements towards contributing to the achievement of gender equality results across all sectors and all country programmes and to report on the contributions of UNICEF to improved gender equality results at national and global levels, in the context of the medium-term strategic plan;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to work closely with UN-Women to advance gender mainstreaming, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Requests* UNICEF to inform the Executive Board of the findings of the review of the current strategic priority action plan (SPAP) for gender equality 2010-2012, as well as how these findings are being used to strengthen the next SPAP;

6. *Encourages* UNICEF to ensure that the next SPAP for gender equality is adequately resourced;

7. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to report on the progress of its gender equality work, in line with the SPAP for gender equality 2010-2012 and the successor to the plan, during the annual session of the Executive Board in 2013.

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2012/9. Draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the aggregate indicative budgets for the following country programmes of cooperation:

Region/country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2012/*
Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States				
Bulgaria	2013-2017	3 750 000	12 500 000	P/L.4
Republic of Moldova	2013-2017	3 750 000	20 300 000	P/L.5
Romania	2013-2017	3 750 000	12 500 000	P/L.6
East Asia and the Pacific				
Pacific Island Countries — multi-country programme	2013-2017	27 825 000	44 000 000	P/L.7
Eastern and Southern Africa				
Lesotho	2013-2017	5 260 000	40 000 000	P/L.8
Middle East and North Africa				
Djibouti	2013-2017	3 750 000	19 500 000	P/L.9
Jordan	2013-2017	3 600 000	8 000 000	P/L.10

Region/country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2012/*
South Asia				
India	2013-2017	210 000 000	540 000 000	P/L.11 and Corr.1
Nepal	2013-2017	34 160 000	109 952 095	P/L.12 and Corr.1
Sri Lanka	2013-2017	3 750 000	56 250 000	P/L.13
The Americas and the Caribbean				
Belize	2013-2016	3 000 000	3 500 000	P/L.14
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2013-2017	6 760 000	60 000 000	P/L.15
Costa Rica	2013-2017	3 750 000	6 000 000	P/L.16
West and Central Africa				
Guinea	2013-2017	44 710 000	57 000 000	P/L.17
Liberia	2013-2017	23 470 000	126 530 000	P/L.19
Sierra Leone	2013-2014	17 286 000	97 712 335	P/L.21

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2012/10. Request by Rwanda to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP

The Executive Board

Recalling its decisions 2002/4, 2006/19 and 2008/17 on the country programme approval process,

1. *Notes* the request by Rwanda to present, on an exceptional basis, a draft common country programme document, incorporating a common narrative with the organization-specific results framework and related resource requirements, to the first regular session of 2013 of their respective Executive Boards;

2. *Decides* to consider, on an exceptional basis, the draft common country programme document of Rwanda at the first regular session of 2013 of the respective Executive Boards;

3. *Decides further* that the final common country programme document will be posted on the websites of the respective organizations no later than six weeks after the discussion at the respective Executive Boards;

4. *Emphasizes* that, in line with Executive Board decisions 2002/4, 2006/19 and 2008/17, the organization-specific component of the common country programme document will be approved, on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, at the annual session of 2013, unless at least five members have informed the respective secretariat, in writing before the session, of their wish to bring the final common country programme document before the Executive Board.

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2012/11. Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the one-year extensions approved by the Executive Director for the country programmes for Cuba, Mexico, Nigeria and Togo, as well as the Gulf Area subregional programme, as indicated in table 1 of document E/ICEF/2012/P/L.22;

2. *Approves* the two-year extensions for Colombia and Comoros, the second one-year extensions for Madagascar and Tunisia and the third one-year extension for Namibia, as indicated in table 2 of document E/ICEF/2012/P/L.22.

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2012/12. Annual report on the evaluation function and major evaluations

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on the evaluation function and major evaluations in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2012/13);

2. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the evaluation function in UNICEF and the importance of the principles set out in its Evaluation Policy (E/ICEF/2008/4);

3. *Welcomes* the evidence presented in the report of continued efforts to strengthen the evaluation function at the headquarters, regional and country levels, and encourages UNICEF to accelerate progress;

4. *Takes note* of the key performance indicators tracking the effectiveness of the evaluation function and the administrative data on human and financial resources;

5. *Notes* the positive work to strengthen global learning, including the skills, capacities and systems of national partners and South-South learning;

6. *Welcomes* the thematic presentation of recent evaluation results in child protection and the prevention of violence against children, and the management response;

7. *Recalls* decision 2011/20, and reiterates its request to UNICEF to ensure that management responses are prepared to address all evaluation recommendations and to report on progress in the implementation of management responses;

8. *Requests* UNICEF to:

(a) Undertake the proposed review of the evaluation function and evaluation policy, with a view to presenting an updated evaluation policy to the annual session of the Board in 2013 for discussion;

(b) Focus future annual reports on the performance of the evaluation function across UNICEF, including evaluation planning and resources, while preparing a separate report each year to the Board on a substantive theme synthesizing evaluation findings and lessons and illustrating their use by UNICEF;

(c) Ensure that relevant evaluation results are systematically considered and used in preparing key policies, strategies and programmes.

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2012/13. Office of Internal Audit 2011 annual report to the Executive Board

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the Office of Internal Audit 2011 annual report to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/2012/AB/L.2), the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee annual report for 2011, and the UNICEF management response to the Office of Internal Audit annual report for 2011 (E/ICEF/2012/AB/L.3);

2. *Welcomes* the focus on risk-based audit planning;

3. *Takes note* of the change of the name of the Office of Internal Audit to the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations;

4. *Expresses its support* for strengthening the capacity of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and requests management to ensure adequate and timely staffing;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of its decision 2011/21 on internal audit and oversight, which requested Executive Board consultations on a broad range of possible transparency and accountability measures, including public disclosure of internal audit reports; and paragraph 12 of decision 2009/8 on specific circumstances where full disclosure would not be appropriate;

6. *Recognizes* that the independence of the internal audit function and transparency with respect to audits, financial reporting, risk management, and internal controls strengthens accountability and increases public confidence;

7. *Expresses its support* for greater accountability and transparency;

8. *Decides* that the Director of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations will make publicly available all internal audit reports issued after 30 September 2012;

9. *Decides* that before making disclosure of an internal audit report that contains findings related to a specific Member State, UNICEF will provide a copy of the report to the concerned Member State and provide the concerned Member State with adequate time to review and comment on the report, as per paragraph 9 (b) of decision 2009/8, and in this context notes that where information contained in a UNICEF internal audit report is deemed by the Executive Director or the concerned Member State to be particularly sensitive (relating inter alia to third parties or a country, government or administration), or as compromising to a pending action, or as being likely to endanger the safety or security of any individual, violate his or her rights or invade his or her privacy, such UNICEF internal audit report may be redacted or withheld in its entirety at the discretion of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations;

10. *Requests* the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations to include in its annual reports to the Executive Board the titles of all internal audit reports issued during the year and information on significant issues, if any, related to the public

disclosure of internal audit reports; and to include in its 2014 annual report an analysis on experience gained from public disclosure to date.

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